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LS

28 May 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT : Weekly Activities Report - Language School

1. Judging from student response, the language portion of the Vietnam Orientation Course is going well. [ ] one of our newest instructors, has introduced innovations which have been well received. The students have asked her to record tapes for review and self-study; the taping project has begun this week.

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2. [ ] who has been assigned the task of reviewing professional journals and keeping the staff aware of articles that are of direct interest to the Language School, briefed the Linguistic Steering Committee on the so-called "cognitive code" theory of language learning. She provided the staff with key articles on the subject and did an excellent job of contrasting the cognitive code approach with the audio-lingual theory which underlies the IS method. It appears that the academic linguists are concluding that a combination of the two approaches, which is exactly what we have used all along, is the most effective way of teaching languages, particularly to adults.

3. Eleven recommendations to the Language Incentive Program have been received, and one cash award authorization has been forwarded for a former IS student who achieved a "2" level in Thai. In these first cases we have encountered several deviations from what we hope will become a routine procedure, mainly because there is an overlap between the LPCA and the LPSI programs.

4. We have learned through unofficial channels that language instructors at the Foreign Service Institute have raised a number of grievances about salary, working hours and the lack of communication that exists between the faculty and FSI management. Movement is well underway toward formation of a union. By contrast, instructor morale at the Language School, we are happy to note, has never been higher. The current Faculty Advisory Committee, which is a primary channel of communication between faculty and staff, completed its one-year term this week, and elections of new representatives from the various departments are now being held.

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downgrading and declassification

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5. The first of a series of "Romance Roundtables" was held at the Language School this week on 26 May. It was attended by Romance Language Department linguists from LS, FSI and DLI. The meeting was devoted chiefly to getting acquainted and to planning the procedures and substance of future meetings. We hoped that each school would give a brief presentation of its approach, methods and materials in French and Spanish instruction; but because of limited time, only the LS representatives were able to do this. It is planned, however, that from now on workshops will be held on a monthly basis, in rotation at our respective schools. DLI will host the June meeting. I am very pleased that [ ] arranged this meeting, and plan to encourage it in other languages. We need this type of exchange on the working level of school staffs in the Washington language community. Most of our interagency contact is on the managerial level, where substantive topics are rarely discussed. Some of the topics suggested for discussion at future meetings are the following:

Instructor training,  
Achievement testing,  
Student performance evaluation,  
Classroom monitoring,  
Diversity of students,  
Use of tape-recorders in classroom,  
Late afternoon slump,  
VOA comprehension tapes,  
Amount of instructor-student contact hours,  
Outside activities,  
Monitoring in the language lab,  
Instruction in phonology,  
Rotation of teachers,  
Objectives and "syllabi" for courses of varying length,  
Role of the linguist,  
Student critiques,  
Degree of flexibility allowed in presenting basic text, etc.

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6. [ ] reported that the conclusions of last week's DLI conference on language laboratory software, which will be written up in the professional literature, will probably have an impact on the role of the laboratory in language teaching throughout the country. Having made the decision -- despite recent controversy about the effectiveness of taped materials -- to reaffirm its commitment to the lab, the DLI admitted that what it now had on tape was poor, and expressed its intent to revise it all -- over 10,000 master tapes. Leading experts were assembled to draw up guidelines and recommendations to implement the massive revision project. There are obvious implications for us in this move by DLI, and we will give careful consideration to the conference recommendations as soon as they are available.

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7. Miss Marcelle Carlier, AID's language officer, visited us on Thursday for the purpose of seeking out information on a loan-out cassette self-study language program she is planning. We showed her our equipment and described our administrative controls. She told us that she had recently returned from a six-week trip abroad during which she assessed the local language training available overseas. Apparently the quality of instruction varies widely from post to post but none of it is comparable to the quality of training available in the United States. She described AID's language program, which is similar to that of the State Department, but with somewhat lesser language qualifications required.

8. At a joint meeting of the Language and Area Roundtables, it was recommended that a subcommittee be established to discuss the further integration of language, area and cross-cultural training. The Language School supports the objective of the subcommittee and will provide membership when asked.

9. Language School Statistics:

Students and Classes as of the week of 17 - 21 May 1971:

<u>Students</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Full-time - 80	Full-time - 38
Part-time - <u>134</u> (43 BAHLT)	Part-time - <u>50</u> ( 8 BAHLT)
(45 Hqs.)	(10 Hqs.)
TOTAL.....214	TOTAL.....88

Laboratory hours for the week of 17 - 21 May 1971:

Language School - 305  
Headquarters - 53

There were 31 proficiency tests given during the week of 17 - 21 May 1971.

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Acting Chief, Language School

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